

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
1971

J. M. V. PACKER (Medical Officer of Health)
C. L. GARSIDE (Chief Public Health Inspector)

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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J. M. V. PACKER

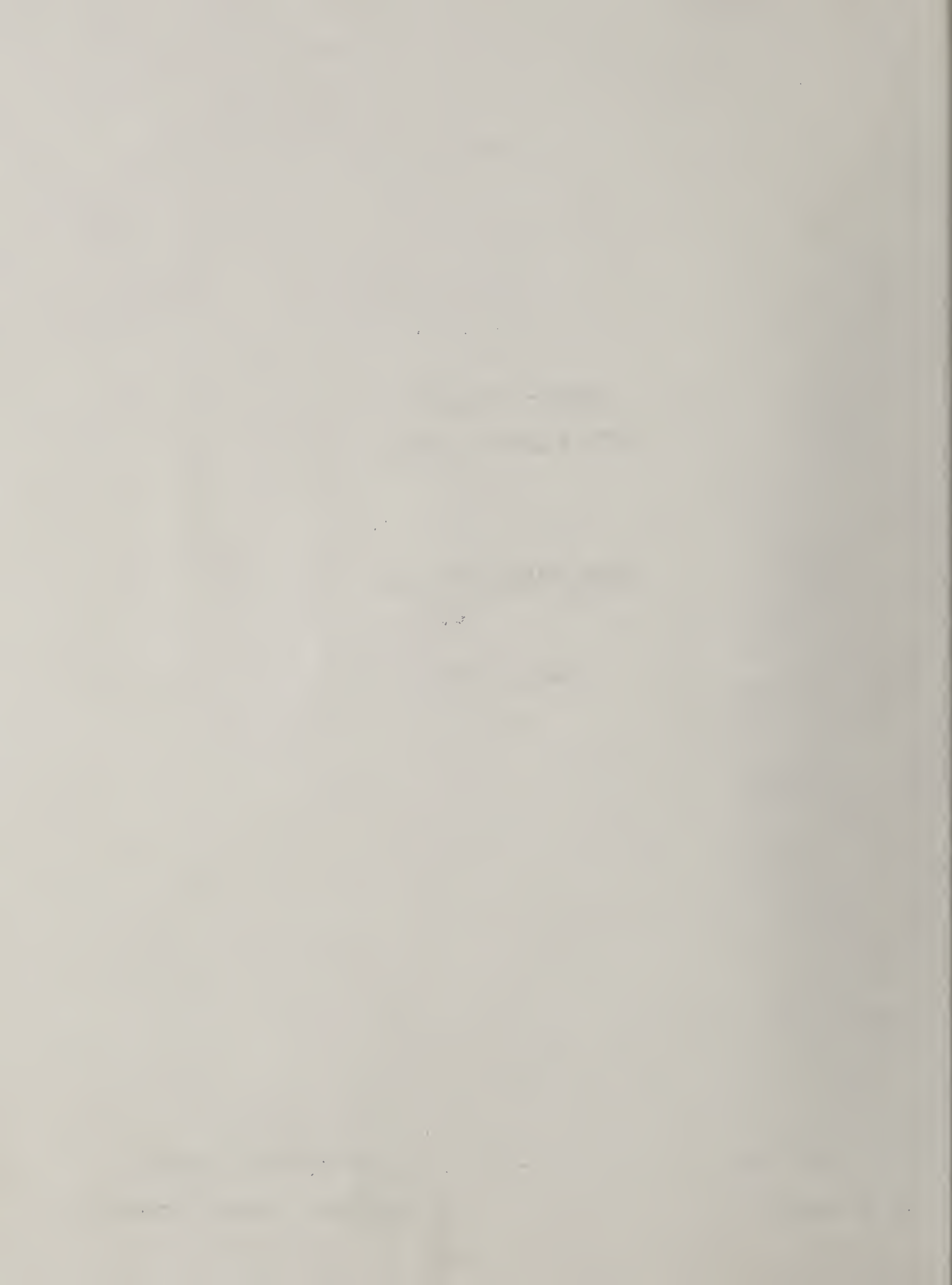
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C. L. GARSIDE

-

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH & WATER COMMITTEE

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. N. KERSHAW, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR R. H. KNIGHT, J.P.

Members:

COUNCILLOR T. CHISNALL

" E. KERSHAW

" MRS. A. ROBERTS

" G. ROBERTS

" A. S. L. SHERLOCK

" MRS. M. M. W. VALE



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STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

J. M. V. PACKER M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

C. L. GARSIDE M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

G. A. PILKINGTON M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (from 5/10/71)

Additional Public Health Inspector:

G. SEIKOR M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 20/6/71)

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

J. GWATKINS

Technical Assistant:

H. GLOVER

Clerk/Typist:

MRS. E. M. GOLDSACK

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area	3,103 statute acres
Population	22,330 Estimated mid-1971
	22,370 Census 1971
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census 1961	7,200
Number of Inhabited Houses, Estimated 1971	7,552
Rateable Value	£783,693
Sum represented by a penny rate	£7,462

The major portion of the district is truly urban in character, with a relatively small acreage of rural character. It is built up with dwelling houses, with shops, offices, workshops, factories, churches, mission halls, clubs, hotels and all the usual ancillary buildings which serve a civilised community. The main industries are Light and Heavy Engineering, including Sugar Refining, Printing and Stationery Manufacture, and Raincoat Manufacture. As would be expected from the urban character of the district, agriculture plays only a very minor role in its activities.

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS U.D.C.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

----- 1 9 7 1 -----

P R E F A C E

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Newton-le-Willows for the year ended December 1971, together with the vital statistics for that year.

For the most part the vital statistics have remained fairly steady for several years. The number of live births in 1971 was 388, an increase of 12 on the number for 1970. The adjusted live birth rate therefore rose from 17.2 per thousand population to 17.6, the rate for England and Wales being 16.0. Illegitimate births remained at 35, 9% of the total live births (the national rate being 8%). There were 7 deaths of infants under one year of age, 4 of which occurred in the first week of life. This was a decrease from 1970 when there were 10 infant deaths. The infant mortality rate for 1971 was 18 per thousand live births, a welcome reduction from the figure of 27 per thousand recorded last year. In the Annual Report for 1970 I remarked upon the occurrence of chance fluctuations when one is dealing with small numbers, but it is reassuring to see that this figure has reverted this year to the expected level. For comparison, the infant mortality rate for Lancashire Administrative County was 17.7 per thousand, and the rate for England and Wales was 18 per thousand. The number of still births, however, increased from 3 in 1970 to 8 in 1971. The perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week of age, per thousand total births) rose from 24 to 30.

For the eighth successive year, no death was attributable to child birth.

The total number of deaths was 303, a reduction from the total of 328 reported in 1970, but still above the District's average for recent years and also in excess of both the County and the national rates. The adjusted death rate (used for comparison with other areas) was 15.5 per thousand population. The adjusted death rate for the Lancashire Administrative County was 13.2 per thousand and the rate for England and Wales was 11.6.

The leading cause of death, as usual, was ischaemic heart disease (coronary disease) which accounted for 84 deaths (49 males, 35 females).

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This was a reduction from the high figure of 105 deaths from this cause recorded last year. Deaths from all forms of cancer numbered 74(41 males 33 females) of which 22 deaths (15males, 7 females) were due to lung cancer. Cerebro-vascular lesions (strokes) numbered 34. There were 11 deaths due to pneumonia and 13 due to bronchitis and emphysema.

There were no large outbreaks of infectious disease during the year. 79 cases of measles were notified, mainly in the first three months of the year. 15 cases of dysentery occurred among the children and staff of the hostel for mentally handicapped children, but this outbreak was quickly brought under control by the imposition of strict hygiene measures.

Progress has been made in tackling the problem of substandard housing. Increasingly, owners are taking advantage of the grants now available for the improvement of houses. Unfortunately there are a considerable number of houses which are incapable of being brought up to standard at reasonable expense. The work of inspection of these has continued and further properties have been represented to the Council as unfit for habitation. The number of medical certificates received in support of applications for rehousing is testimony to the adverse effect of poor housing on health. It is therefore to be expected that the Council's policy of improving the stock of housing within the District will contribute to the health and well-being of the community.

It is less pleasing to have to observe that no progress has been made in regard to smoke control areas.

This has been the first year of office of Mr. C. L. Garside as Chief Public Health Inspector. He has tackled his duties with enthusiasm and I should like to record my thanks to him and to his staff for the help they have readily given at all times. I also wish to express my thanks to the members of the Council for the interest they have displayed in matters affecting the health of the public.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. M. V. PACKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE 1

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1971

	Newton-le-Willows		England & Wales	
	Males	Females	Total	(Total)
Estimated mid-year home population	-	-	22,330	48,815,000
LIVE BIRTHS:				
Total	205	183	388	783,165
Legitimate	189	164	353	717,491
Illegitimate	16	19	35	65,674
STILLBIRTHS:				
Total	4	4	8	9,898
Legitimate	1	2	3	8,826
Illegitimate	3	2	5	1,072
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS:				
Total	209	187	396	793,063
Legitimate	190	166	356	726,317
Illegitimate	19	21	40	66,746
DEATH OF INFANTS:				
<u>Under 1 year of age.</u>				
Total	5	2	7	13,726
Legitimate	5	2	7	12,140
Illegitimate	-	-	-	1,586
<u>Under 4 weeks of age</u>				
Total	4	1	5	9,113
Legitimate	4	1	5	8,121
Illegitimate	-	-	-	992
<u>Under 1 week of age</u>				
Total	4	-	4	7,750
Legitimate	4	-	4	6,903
Illegitimate	-	-	-	847
DEATHS - ALL AGES:	161	142	303	567,345

TABLE 1 CONT'D.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1971

	Newton-le-Willows	England & Wales
LIVE BIRTH RATES, etc:		
Live births per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	17.4	16.0
Area comparability factor	1.01	1.00
Local adjusted rate	17.6	16.0
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.10	1.00
Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births	9	8
STILLBIRTH RATE:		
Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and still births	20	12
INFANT MORTALITY RATES:		
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	18	18
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	20	17
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	24
NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:		
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	13	12
EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:		
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	10	10
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE:		
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week, combined, per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	30	22
DEATH RATES, etc. - ALL AGES:		
Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	13.6	11.6
Area comparability factor	1.14	1.00
Local adjusted rate	15.5	11.6
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.34	1.00

TABLE 2

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, Buccal Cavity	-	2
" " Oesophagus	1	1
" " Stomach	7	4
" " Intestine	9	5
" " Lung, bronchus	15	7
" " Breast	-	3
" " Uterus	-	1
" " Prostate	1	-
Leukaemia	1	-
Other malignant neoplasms	7	12
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	1	1
Other endocrine, etc. diseases	1	2
Anaemia	-	1
Mental disorders	-	1
Other diseases of the nervous system	3	3
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	4	2
Hypertensive disease	2	6
Ischaemic heart disease	49	35
Other forms of heart disease	9	10
Cerebro-vascular disease	17	17
Other diseases of circulatory system	6	1
Pneumonia	4	7
Bronchitis and emphysema	7	6
Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	-
Peptic Ulcer	2	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	2	-
Cirrhosis of the liver	-	1
Other diseases of the digestive system	3	-
Hyperplasia of the prostate	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	3
Diseases of the musculo-skeletal system	2	-
Congenital anomalies	-	2
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	2	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	-
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
All other accidents	1	5
All other external causes	-	1
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	<u>161</u>	<u>142</u>

TABLE 3

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1971

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Total cases at all ages	AGE PERIODS - YEARS									25 & over	Age un- known	
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-				
Measles (excluding rubella)	77	9	13	12	13	13	15	2	-	-	-		
Dysentery	15	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	1	2	-		
Scarlet Fever	Nil												
Diphtheria	Nil												
Acute meningitis	Nil												
Acute poliomyelitis paralytic	Nil												
Non-paralytic	Nil												
		0-	5-	15-	45-	65 & over	Age un- known						
Acute encephalitis													
Infective	Nil												
Post-infectious	Nil												
Leptospirosis	Nil												
Paratyphoid fever	Nil												
Typhoid fever	Nil												
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
Tetanus	Nil												
Infective													
Jaundice	7	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-
Tuberculosis													
Respiratory	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
Meninges and C.N.S.	Nil												
Other	Nil												
Whooping cough	7	1	-	3	3								
Smallpox	Nil												
Ophthalmia neonatorum	Nil												
Anthrax	Nil												
Yellow fever	Nil												

PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY SERVICES

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS

Public Health Laboratory Service and County Analyst's Department

Pathological specimens for bacteriological analysis may be dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Public Health Laboratory, Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool. Samples of food and drugs for analysis are submitted to the County Analyst's Department at Preston.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

(Liverpool Regional Hospital Board; Warrington H.M.C.)

The only hospital situated within the boundaries of the Urban District is the Newton-le-Willows Cottage Hospital in Bradleigh Road, which has a limited number of in-patient beds and provides a range of out-patient clinics covering most of the more common specialties. A full range of the services normally to be found in a district general hospital is provided at the Warrington Infirmary and Warrington General Hospital, to which many Newton patients are admitted. The Victoria Park Maternity Home at Latchford, Warrington, accommodates some of the more straightforward maternity cases, thus supplementing the main obstetric unit at the General Hospital. A proportion of medical, surgical and obstetric cases are referred, for various reasons, to hospitals in nearby districts such as St. Helens, Whiston, and Billinge, and some to Liverpool and Manchester.

Patients requiring in-patient treatment for tuberculosis are admitted mainly to Eccleston Hall; out-patient sessions are held by the Chest Physician at Warrington General Hospital.

Facilities for the treatment of psychiatric illnesses are centred on Winwick Hospital, and for mental subnormality, at Newchurch Hospital, Culcheth.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SERVICES

The family doctor service and the general dental, pharmaceutical and ophthalmic services are the responsibility of the Lancashire Executive Council, 42 West Cliff, Preston.

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

The Lancashire County Council is the Local Health Authority, and the day to day administration of the wide range of services which it provides in this area is in the hands of Divisional Health Committee No. 10.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

All vehicles in the Lancashire County Council ambulance service are under radio control, and all services in the Division are controlled by staff at the area ambulance headquarters at Whiston. Vehicles from other stations can be brought in easily because of the radio contact when necessary.

This service deals with all types of cases where such transport is required by reason of illness (including mental illness or mental subnormality), whether accident, other emergency, general illness or infectious disease. In cases of emergency any person having reason to do so may summon an ambulance, and the emergency service number '999' should be used. In other cases the calls for this service are made either by a doctor, dentist, midwife, nurse or other duly qualified person, who can call Whiston headquarters, telephone number 051-426-5222.

Five stretcher-carrying ambulance vehicles and three "sitting case" cars are stationed at the Ambulance Station, Silverdale Road, Newton-le-Willows and manned by an appropriate staff, all qualified in First Aid.

MIDWIFERY

Whole-time domiciliary midwives are engaged on this work within the Newton-le-Willows District in the employ of the County Council, which is both the Local Health Authority and Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act. These nurses normally accept responsibility for cases residing within reasonable proximity of their homes, but the principle of the expectant mother's free choice of midwife (as of doctor), is well established. Each has a car at her disposal to enable her to respond quickly to urgent calls and to carry apparatus for analgesia.

Mrs. A. Grace, 13 Norcott Drive, Burtonwood
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 6410

Mrs. F. Stanier, 144 Common Road, Newton-le-Willows
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 4778

Mrs. Sword, 60 Vista Road, Newton-le-Willows
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 7847

HEALTH VISITING

A Health Visitor is a State Registered Nurse who has received at least a course of training in midwifery and undertaken a year of special training in preventative medicine (especially early detection of handicaps), health education, and social work. Although in much of her work she is concerned with mothers and children, her duties are by no means confined to these members of the family. In recent years the Health Visitor has worked increasingly with adults, particularly the elderly.

A substantial part of the Health Visitor's time is spent in connection with the school Health Service undertaking the duties of a School Nurse. If a Health Visitor has the aptitude she may undertake teaching of classes in health education and mothercraft subjects which are included in the school curriculum.

Hitherto each Health Visitor has worked in a defined geographical area, but the current trend is to make the Health Visitor's case-load the patients registered with one or more family doctors and to arrange for the Health Visitor to have frequent contact with the doctors.

The Health Visitors employed in this district are based at "The Gables" Clinic, Crow Lane West, Newton-le-Willows.

DISTRICT NURSING

An "attachment" scheme is now in operation by which district nursing sisters take their patients according to the medical practice to which they are attached and not according to a geographical district as before. District nurses of the S.E.N. grade and nursing auxiliaries are also employed to work under the supervision of the nursing sisters; ~~in~~ this scheme nursing sisters and general medical practitioners work closely together with full consultation so that the skill of the specially trained nurse can be properly employed.

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the nursing sisters are:

Miss M. Littler, 69 Oak Avenue, Newton-le-Willows
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 5646

Mrs. Platt, 8 Irwin Road, Sutton, St. Helens
Telephone: St. Helens 27992

Mrs. M. J. Harles, 44 Newlands Drive, Lowton
Telephone: Ashton-in-Makerfield 75196

Mrs. Gatley, 10 Troutbeck Grove, Moss Bank, St. Helens
Telephone: St. Helens 29100

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Facilities are provided both by the County Council and by family doctors for giving protection against smallpox, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, and german measles. Certain other immunisations, e.g. against typhoid fever, may be given by family doctors when required. The B.C.G. injection against tuberculosis is given by the School Health Service and by the staff of Chest Clinics.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The scope of these arrangements is very wide and includes health education, health visiting in the homes including those of persons suffering from tuberculosis, the provision of ancillary nursing equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness either at home or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation. It also includes the provision of a chiropody service available to the elderly (aged 65 and over), registered handicapped persons, and expectant mothers.

Further information about all of the foregoing services may be obtained from the Divisional Medical Officer, Divisional Health Office, Winwick (Telephone Warrington 37444)

The following services were provided by Divisional Health Committee No. 10 during the year under review but on the 1st April 1972 they passed to the Social Services Committee.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This permissive service is available under the Lancashire County Council Divisional Health Scheme (no. 10 Health Division), to homes requiring such assistance by reason of the presence in the household of a case of sickness (including mental illness and deficiency), advanced pregnancy, a parturient woman, an aged person or a child under school leaving age.

The service is not a free one; contributions must be made by the applicants towards the cost of provision in accordance with scales adopted by the County Council. Many applicants are, however, old age pensioners in straightened circumstances whose incomes are below the minimum prescribed by the scales, who therefore receive this help free of cost.

MENTAL HEALTH

Social work help and statutory action under the provisions of the Mental Health Act, 1959 for persons suffering from mental illness or subnormality is provided by a team of four Mental Welfare Officers based at the Divisional Health Office, Winwick (telephone no. Warrington 37444).

A Special School for 120 mentally handicapped children and an adjacent hostel for 25 children are situated at Mill Lane, Newton-le-Willows, and an Adult Training Centre for 45 subnormal men and women and a hostel accommodating 27 residents are located at Grange Road, Haydock. Another Adult Training Centre and Hostel were opened at Golborne during the year.

WELFARE SERVICES

The County Council is the Authority responsible for implementing Parts III and IV of the National Assistance Act, 1948 and related legislation. Broadly speaking, these services provide for the elderly, the handicapped and the homeless. The day to day administration of the Welfare Services was in the hands of Divisional Health Committee No. 10. The Divisional Medical Officer had on his staff a Divisional Welfare Organiser who led a team of four Social Welfare Officers and two Welfare Assistants.

The County Council's scheme utilises very fully the various voluntary agencies, including the Old People's Welfare Committee which provide an excellent means of fostering liaison between the statutory and voluntary bodies concerned with the care of the aged. Either directly or through the voluntary agencies the County Council makes provision to meet a wide range of needs of aged and handicapped persons, including provision of counselling, social club, luncheon clubs and "meals on wheels", training facilities, home and workshop employment, occupational therapy and holidays.

Accommodation is provided for those of the aged population no longer able to live an independent existence in their own homes, even with the maximum help from the domiciliary services. The Homes in this Division are Golborne House, Golborne (which accommodates 50 residents), Heathside, Penketh (50 residents), Heyescroft, Haydock, (51 residents), and Larchfields, Newton-le-Willows (51 residents). Day care and short term care are also provided at each of these Homes. Residential accommodation, including short term care, for the handicapped is provided elsewhere in the County (at Swinton and Fleetwood).

One of the most useful developments in recent years has been that of warden - supervised bungalows or flatlets for elderly persons and, when necessary, the handicapped. These afford the privacy and the stimulus associated with a person having his or her own home, whilst at the same time providing security deriving from the presence of a responsible person who "keeps an eye" on the resident and can send for help if it should be required.

Temporary accommodation is provided at Farnworth and Trafford Park for families who have become homeless for reasons which could not reasonably have been foreseen.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

The responsibilities of the County Council under the Children Act and Children and Young Persons Acts are carried out by the Children's Committee through the Children's Officer. Locally, Area Children's Committee No. 11 is responsible for the day to day operation of the service.

Enquiries regarding the Social Services should be directed to the Area Officer - Social Services Department (Division 3), The Old Rectory, Winwick, Warrington. (Telephone Warrington 37444).

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1971

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the environmental health of the Urban District.

The Department was under-staffed for four months of the year. The Additional Public Health Inspector resigned to take up an appointment with St. Helens County Borough Council. As this position required an experienced senior inspector it was decided to redesignate the position as Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and subsequently the post was filled in October 1971. In these circumstances it was inevitable that some work had to suffer and staff had to be concentrated on more essential work.

The Pupil Public Health Inspector successfully completed the third year of his four-year training course.

The total number of visits recorded by the Public Health Inspectors was 3179 during the year.

I acknowledge the help given by the Chairman and members of Health Committee, and the loyal co-operation of the Staff of the Health Department.

C L GARSIDE

Chief Public Health Inspector

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

This Act made provisions for the control of noise and vibration for the purpose of Part III of the Public Health Act 1936.

During the year several complaints of noise nuisance have been investigated. The most persistent was caused by heavy goods vehicles operating from a commercial source sited only a short distance from houses. Co-operation between the firm concerned and Council representatives resulted in a programme being adopted in an attempt to minimise noise emissions, relating to vehicle operation and movements.

Although there has been some reduction in noise pollution it still remains to be seen whether the problem has been resolved. Generally speaking, at the present time it would seem that heavy and increasing levels of traffic are with us for a considerable time to come, and we shall unfortunately have to adjust ourselves to a noisier environment than that of the past.

Looking to the future, the Noise Advisory Council is considering the possibilities of a Noise Control Act which would give Local Authorities power to create "Noise Control Areas" so that, in certain limited areas, action to suppress or eliminate noise could be taken by means of a Noise Control Order. The Order would divert or control traffic flow in residential areas and thereby reduce traffic noise.

HOUSING

Clearance of Unfit Houses

During the year an official representation was submitted to the Council in respect of the Newton-le-Willows Legh Street No. 2 Area containing 29 houses.

In addition representations were submitted in respect of 3 individual unfit houses.

A local enquiry by an Inspector from the Department of the Environment was held in November 1971 on the Athol Street / Clarence Street Clearance Area, the Order being later confirmed with boundary modification.

At this point it is worth commenting that some of the delay occurring between initial inspections of houses for clearance and the actual demolition of the houses involved is due to the period of waiting for Government confirmation of the Orders which, as a result, causes a great deal of uncertainty to the people occupying property in such Areas. Unfortunately there appears to be little the Local Authority can do to speed up the decision.

HOUSING STATISTICS

TABLE 4

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Flats</u>
1. <u>Number of new dwellings erected during the year</u>		
By the local authority	25	Nil
By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
By other bodies or persons	23	Nil
2. <u>Total number of dwellings owned by any local authority in district at end of year</u>		2,836
3. <u>Inspections of dwellings during the year</u>		
Total number of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		595
Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose		994
Number of dwellings in above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit		123
Total number of dwellings existing at end of year, occupied or not, which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which:-		
(a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made (at any time)		124
(b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made		453

TABLE 4 Cont/d

4. <u>Houses Demolished</u>	Number	Displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed	
In or adjoining Clearance Areas:		<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(1) Houses unfit for human habit- ation Nil)			
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.. .. . Nil)		9	3
(3) Houses on land acquired under S.43 (2) Housing Act 1957 4)			
Not in or adjoining Clearance Areas:			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under S.16 or S.17(1) Housing Act 1957 6)			
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health Nil)		4	1
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under Local Acts Nil)			
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders Nil)			
5. <u>Unfit Houses Closed</u>			
(1) Under S.16(4), S.17(1) and S.35(1), Housing Act 1957, and S. 26 Housing Act 1961 3)			
(2) Under S.17(3) and S.26 Housing Act Act 1961 4)		14	3
(3) Parts of buildings closed under S. 18, Housing Act 1957 Nil)			

TABLE 4 Cont'd

6. Unfit Houses Made Fit

	Number
(1) By owner after informal action by local authority	43
(2) After formal notice under S.9 and S.16 Housing Act 1957 - (a) by owner	Nil
(b) by local authority	Nil
(3) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	32
(4) After modification or revocation of a clearance order under S.24, Housing Act 1961	Nil
(5) After determination of a demolition order under S.24, Housing Act 1957	Nil

7. Unfit House in Temporary Use (Housing Act 1957)

	Number of houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in Column (1) (2)
Position at end of year:		
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation -		
(a) Under Section 48	-	-
(b) Under S.17(2)	-	-
(c) Under S.46	-	-
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under S.34 or S.53	-	-

8. Purchase of Houses by Agreement

	Number of houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in Column (1) (2)
Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed orders or compulsory purchase orders	2	5

TABLE 4 Cont'd

9. Housing (Financial Provisions) Act
1958, and Housing Act 1969 -
Improvement Grants etc.

Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of:-

	<u>Owner occupied</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Local Authority</u>
Action during year:			
Submitted by private individuals to			
local authority	3	22	-
Approved by local authority .. .	2	7	-
Submitted by local authority to Ministry	-	-	-
Finally approved by Ministry .. .	-	-	-
Work completed	1	2	-
Additional separate dwellings included in			
Work completed above	-	-	-
Any other action taken under the Acts eg			
General Improvement Areas	-	-	-

10. House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 and Housing Acts 1961, 1964 and 1969 - Standard Grants

Action during year:

Number of
dwellings or
other buildings
affected

							<u>Owner occupied</u>	<u>Others</u>
Applications submitted to local authority for								
improvement to (a) full standard	..	..	..				50	4
(b) reduced standard	..	..	..				-	-
Total applications approved by local authority for								
improvement to (a) full standard	..	..	..				49	4
(b) reduced standard	..	..	..				-	-
Work completed	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	7
Particulars of any action taken relating to								
compulsory improvement of dwellings	..	..	..				-	-

11. Housing Act 1969 - Special Grants

Number of dwelling houses or
other buildings affected

Action during year:

Action during year:							Owner occupied	Others
Applications submitted to local authority for special grant							-	-
Applications approved by local authority for improvement by special grant							-	-
Work completed							-	-

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Weekly collections of domestic refuse was maintained throughout most of the year and trade refuse was collected from commercial and industrial premises as often as necessary. Refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping, mainly at Swan Road Tip. It is expected that this method of disposal will be superseded by incineration after re-organisation of Local Government is implemented, and proposals suggest that a new incineration plant will be built in the St. Helens area.

The twelve domestic dumps, now fully containerised, set up in 1968, continue to be well used and, to a limited degree, indiscriminate dumping is reduced. Rubbish and accumulations of all kinds however, continues to be dumped in the yards of empty houses and on spare ground throughout the District which is quite unnecessary as the Cleansing Department will now move excess domestic refuse, free of charge, on notification.

The problems associated with refuse collection increase continually, resulting in the Department being called upon to remove an ever-increasing volume of rubbish. It must be appreciated that the volume of refuse increases by almost 8% annually and that requests for the removal of bulky items such as furniture etc., too big to go into the dustbin and too heavy to place on the domestic dumps, also increases.

During the year the employees of this Cleansing Department were again approached to discover their attitude towards the introduction of Works Study Based Incentive Bonus Schemes but unfortunately no satisfactory solution was obtained.

SALVAGE

The collection and sale of salvage has again continued. During the year under review, the combined weight of salvage collected is as follows:-

Waste paper	80.83 tons
The total value was	£1081.87

CLEAN AIR

Not much progress can be reported for 1971 in implementing the Clean Air Programme. Unfortunately during the year under review solid smokeless fuel was again in short supply, and this did little to encourage the setting up of further smoke control areas. Although no new smoke control areas were declared there is no lack of appreciation for clean air. Clean air methods are being encouraged by way of active slum clearance programmes and installation of central heating in new council houses. On a smaller scale many people in the District who do not want the inconvenience of cleaning out grates are converting to piped fuels, that is, gas, oil or electricity. Their action contributes towards a cleaner atmosphere but it is not sufficient in itself to reduce the present pollution by an appreciable degree. It is hoped that authority will be given in the near future to establish further smoke control areas within the District to alleviate the problem.

No serious difficulties arose from industrial air pollution. As stated in previous reports the amount of smoke emitted by industrial chimneys has been drastically reduced. Most factory boilers have been converted or replaced to operate with increased efficiency, giving minimum smoke emissions. Even so there is still need for continued observations to ensure that emissions are kept within the limits of the Clean Air Act requirements.

On a number of occasions action was taken to require the abatement of smoke nuisance caused by the burning of rubbish and industrial waste. One application was received during the year for prior approval of a proposal to modify an existing boiler plant.

TABLE 5 CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

(a) Number of orders submitted to Ministry during year	..	Nil
(b) Number of orders confirmed by Ministry during year	..	Nil
(c) Total number of orders in force at end of year		2
(d) Number of houses and other buildings involved in (c)	..	534

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The year under review produced little improvement in the town's public conveniences. Vandals were again active and for this, inspections and reports served only to confirm that decent conveniences with reasonable amenities can be had only if they are under supervision. Until this is accepted there seems no likelihood of significant improvement.

Meanwhile, if one may encroach into 1972, it can be reported that proposals have been approved to provide a new central attended public convenience and to demolish the more wornout dilapidated conveniences in the out-districts and replace them, in certain cases, with new structures containing hand-washing facilities et cetera.

SEWERAGE

The town's sewage is piped by the Sankey Valley trunk sewer to Warrington where it undergoes purification to an acceptable standard before it is discharged into the River Mersey. Reconstruction of the town's main drainage system was completed during the year.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Almost every house in the town has its own water-closet. There are five pail closets where connection to the sewer for one reason or another is impracticable.

RODENT CONTROL AND DISINFESTATION

The treatment of infestations of rats, mice and other vermin engaged the full time services of the rodent operative throughout the year. A wide range of pests was encountered, including rats, mice, rabbits, fleas, bugs, wasps, bees, silverfish, beetles, cockroaches, crickets and flies.

In addition to dealing with surface infestation of rats the operative treated the sewers with fluoracetamide poison which is a very essential factor in rodent control work.

The rodent operative's visits are often followed up by a Public Health Inspector so that drainage defects and other sources of rodents can be investigated and action taken to have them put right.

Details of inspections and treatments carried out during the year are given in the table overleaf.

RODENT CONTROL - PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS - TABLE 6

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949:-

	<u>TYPE OF PROPERTY</u>	
	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district ..	9,451	15
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	338	1
Number of above infested by - rats ..	247	1
- mice ..	141	-
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	18	-
Number of above infested by - rats ..	6	-
- mice ..	2	-

SEWER TREATMENTS - TABLE 7

Dates of Treatment	Number of Sewer Manholes Treated
15.6.71	120

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

At the end of the year there were 181 premises on the Register of Offices, Shops and Railway premises.

General inspections of 65 premises were carried out, 11 accidents to employees in premises covered by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act were notified during the year. None of these were serious.

TABLE 8

	<u>CLASS OF PREMISES</u>				
	Offices	Retail shops	Wholesale shops; warehouses	Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Fuel storage depots
Number of registered premises at end of year	35	120	9	17	-
Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.. ..	16	32	4	13	-
Number of exemptions at end of the year:-					
Space (S.5 (2)	-	-	-	-	-
Temperature (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.9)	-	-	-	-	-
Washing facilities (S.10)	-	-	-	-	-

PET SHOPS

Before these premises are registered, as they must under the provision of the Pet Animals Act 1951, they are inspected and the co-operation of the R.S.P.C.A. is sought where appropriate. Two pet shops are registered and are well kept.

FACTORIES

The Register of Factories, as required to be kept by the Factories Acts, contains the addresses of 57 factories. All are provided with mechanical power.

Most of the inspection and enforcement work in factories is done by H.M. Factories Inspectorate. During the year, 17 factory visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors.

The prescribed particulars on administration of the Factories Acts, as requested by the Department of Employment and Productivity are given in Table 9.

FACTORIES ACT 1961 TABLE 9

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) during 1971

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)
Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	-	-	-	-
Factories not included in above in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	57	17	1	-
Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	12	2	-	-
TOTAL	69	19	1	-

TABLE 9 CONT'D

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u>		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.. ..	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.. ..	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	1	-

Part 8 of the Act - OUTWORK

SECTION 133

SECTION 134

Nature of work	Number of out-workers in August 1971 Test required by section 133 (1) (c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)

WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the town has a piped supply of mains water supplied by the Makerfield Water Board. The water is derived from underground boreholes in the Newton-le-Willows/Golborne/Lowton areas. It is considered hard in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Samples of water are regularly subjected to full bacteriological examination and chemical analyses. Special examinations and analyses are made as circumstances require.

During 1971, 98 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination. Results showed that the water was of excellent quality; B.Coli being absent in all of the potable water samples tested.

No special action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination. From tests made, the water was shown to have no significant plumbo-solvent action.

In 1971, 744 yards of new water main was laid in the District.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND ORDERS

There were 25 licensed storage premises for petroleum spirit of which 17 were for private use and 8 were for the supply of petrol to the public.

No new installation was made and visits were for the purpose of checking that licensing requirements were being observed.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

There were 5 persons registered as Scrap Metal Dealers under the provisions of the above Act, in the District at the end of the year under review.

FOOD HYGIENE

Regular and frequent surveillance of all food premises is of paramount importance, particularly so in the case of catering establishments and shops which sell open food. In 1971 the Public Health Inspectors made 442 visits to food premises. These included general inspections of shops, warehouses, restaurants, canteens, food factories, vehicles and market stalls as well as visits to examine unsound food, to sample milk and foods, to investigate complaints about food quality and for general registration purposes. Informal action again proved to be the most effective method of bringing about improvement in this field.

Frequent visits to the town's market were made during the year to ensure that food traders were complying with the Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations which came into force in 1967.

In the year under review, the following foodstuffs, after examination at shops, warehouses etc., were found, for various reasons, to be unfit for consumption and were surrendered and destroyed:-

Tinned foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	221 lbs
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15 lbs
Frozen foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	172 pkts
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	790 cases

Table 11 shows the number of different types of food premises in the Urban District. There were 11 food hawkers registered to trade in the District at the end of the year.

TABLE 10 - ADULTERATION OF FOOD - FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Particulars of samples taken during the year 1971

Milk - 29 Other articles - 35

The 35 other articles comprised:-

Cream 3	Tomato sausage .. 1	Gravy .. 1
Pork sausage .. 3	Low Fat spread .. 1	Cheese .. 1
Meat and potato pie .. 2	Boned chicken .. 1	Lemon cheese 1
Tuna fish .. 2	Beef curry and rice 1	Chicken pasty 1
Dripping .. 2	Ham 1	Sugar .. 1
Yoghourt .. 1	Butter 1	Fish cake 1
Bicarbonate of soda .. 1	Lard 1	Beefburger 1
Instant mashed potato 1	Hamburgers .. 1	Crab paste 1
Butter beans .. 1	Mixed peel .. 1	Brawn .. 1

Details are given below of those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:

<u>Description of sample</u>	<u>Result of analysis</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
Meat and potato pie	Meat content 11%. Should contain not less than 12.5% meat or be labelled "Potato and Meat Pie"	Vendor interviewed and cautioned
Pork sausages	Meat content 74.5%, contained 135 ppm of sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration	Vendor interviewed and cautioned
Tomato sausages	Meat content 73%, contained 85 ppm of sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration	Vendor interviewed and cautioned
Cooked shoulder ham	sample contained part of a sliced, used cigarette stub from a filter tip cigarette and weighing 0.099 gm when dried	Importers and manufacturers (Belgian) informed and cautioned

Cont'd

TABLE 10 CONT'D

<u>Description of sample</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
Beef curry with rice	Rice portion contained a small leguminous seed - not a common weed seed, spice or adulterant of cereals, but specific identity not established	Complainant and manufacturer notified
Milk	Fat content 2.8% deficient 6% fat	Producer informed
Pork sausages	Meat content 73%, contained 120 ppm sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration	Vendor interviewed and cautioned
Meat and potato pie	Meat content 7%, should contain not less than 12.5% total meat or be labelled "potato and meat pie"	Baker interviewed and cautioned
Fish cake	Contained a distorted piece of aluminium weighing 73 milligrams	Prosecution under consideration

FOOD PREMISES IN DISTRICT AT END OF 1971 - TABLE 11

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Type of business	Number of Premises	Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16 (Wash-hand basins)	Number of premises to which Regulation 19 applies (Sinks)	Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19
Greengrocers and provision dealers	67	67	64	64
Greengrocers and fruit- erers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	9	9	9	9
Fishmongers(including those selling poultry, game etc)	2	1	2	2
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe etc.)	15	15	15	15
Bakers and/or confec- tioners	9	9	9	9
Fried fish shops	16	16	16	16
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc.	22	22	16	15
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	56	56	56	56
Others	5	5	2	3

